



#6/a 11/14/02 V Hart
Docket No. 4969

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of Lawrence

Serial No. 09/770185

Filing date: January 29, 2001

Title: Mail Opener Apparatus

Group Art Unit 3724 -- Examiner Flores Sanchez

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend by rewriting claims 1 - 11, and the abstract, appended hereto.

REMARKS

This is a reply to the office action of May 8, 2002.

All claims stand rejected on formal grounds and over prior art.

The claims have been rewritten to obviate the formal rejections. We have corrected a number of minor errors and have addressed the points made by the examiner. The claims are now in compliance with 35 USC 112.

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for reasons set out below.

This invention provides a cutting mechanism for a postage meter. The meter is not intended to be part of the invention claimed, but parts of its structure are recited in the claim preambles to provide required antecedent basis for subsequent references. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form to clarify this.

The cutter mechanism includes claimed features that keep the cutter from operating when the print head is operating.

We noted some apparent technical errors in the office action. Paragraph numbers 2 and 3 were reversed. There appears to be no page 3. Also, the references